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TEXTILE PLANT EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST: SECOND QUARTER 2001

Southeastern¹ textile plant employment continued to decline in the second quarter of 2001, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that over a third of the decline over the year occurred in the second quarter. The second quarter employment level of 359,100 (not seasonally adjusted) was down 2.2 percent (8,100) from the previous quarter. Over half of the jobs lost were in North Carolina, down 4,300 jobs. Other significant declines occurred in Georgia (-1,500), and South Carolina (-1,400). (See table 1.)

Over the first half of 2001, the Southeast textile industry has contracted by 14,900 jobs, or 3.9 percent. Over the same period last year, the industry lost 6,600 jobs. North Carolina, which still holds over a third of the textile jobs in the Southeast, accounted for 6,300 of the jobs lost in the first half of this year. All states reported higher losses than last year, except Mississippi, where textile employment has been relatively stable in 2001. (See table 3.)

Over the year, southeastern textile mills reported an employment drop of 6.4 percent (-24,700). North Carolina accounted for over half of the job losses in the Southeast, dropping 12,700 jobs. Other states showing a significant decline in textile employment included Georgia (-4,500), South Carolina (-3,500), and Alabama (-2,400).

Losses in textile plant employment over the year accounted for nearly one out of every five of the 124,800 jobs lost in Southeast manufacturing. All other industry divisions added jobs over the year, led by services and trade. The over the year rate of growth in total nonfarm employment in the Southeast has slowed to 1.5 percent.

The average workweek for textile production workers, not seasonally adjusted, decreased in all states during the second quarter, except in Florida, where the average workweek increased by 2.5 hours. The largest decline was in Georgia, where the average workweek declined 2.9 hours to 39.5 hours. Over the year, the average workweek declined in all states except Florida and Mississippi. Florida had the largest increase, up 2.5 hours to 45.7 hours. Kentucky had the largest decrease, declining 3.4 hours to a 37.9 hour workweek.

¹ The Southeast includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Average hourly earnings of textile production workers, not seasonally adjusted, increased in all states except Georgia over the quarter. Over the year, average hourly earnings declined in Alabama (- 20 cents), Georgia (- 32 cents) and Mississippi (- 22 cents). The largest gain over the year occurred in Florida, where average hourly earnings for production workers increased \$1.05.

Technical Note

All estimates in this release are adjusted to first quarter 2000 benchmark levels. Data relate to all full-time and part-time employment in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee and were compiled by state employment security agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual. A brief technical description of statistics based on establishment records is presented in the explanatory notes of Employment and Earnings, a publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment data from the CES program are available at <http://www.bls.gov/790home.htm>. Information in this release are available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Textile plant employment for the Southeast and states, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

	Employment			1st Qtr. 2001 - 2nd Qtr. 2001		2nd Qtr. 2000 - 2nd Qtr. 2001	
	2nd Qtr. 2000	1 st Qtr 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
Southeast	383.8	367.2	359.1	-8.1	-2.2	-24.7	-6.4
Alabama	38.0	36.3	35.6	-0.7	-1.9	-2.4	-6.3
Florida	3.7	3.4	3.4	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-8.1
Georgia	102.7	99.7	98.2	-1.5	-1.5	-4.5	-4.4
Kentucky	4.3	4.1	4.0	-0.1	-2.4	-0.3	-7.0
Mississippi	4.3	4.2	4.3	0.1	2.4	0.0	0.0
North Carolina	145.9	137.5	133.2	-4.3	-3.1	-12.7	-8.7
South Carolina	69.2	67.1	65.7	-1.4	-2.1	-3.5	-5.1
Tennessee	15.8	15.0	14.5	-0.5	-3.3	-1.3	-8.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 2. Textile plant average weekly hours and average hourly earnings for southeastern states, not seasonally adjusted

	Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
	2nd Qtr. 2000	1 st Qtr 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001	2nd Qtr. 2000	1 st Qtr 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001
Alabama	42.1	40.5	40.1	10.65	10.41	10.45
Florida	43.2	43.2	45.7	9.13	9.95	10.18
Georgia	41.7	42.4	39.5	11.07	10.94	10.75
Kentucky	41.3	39.9	37.9	11.32	11.49	12.14
Mississippi	39.4	40.6	39.9	9.77	9.46	9.55
North Carolina	42.0	40.2	39.2	10.63	10.78	10.81
South Carolina	42.6	40.9	40.8	10.45	10.59	10.61
Tennessee	40.6	38.7	38.5	10.64	10.89	10.95

Table 3. Textile plant employment for the Southeast and states, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

	Employment			2 nd Half 2000 - 1 st Half 2001		1 st Half 2000 - 1 st Half 2001	
	1 st Half. 2000	2 nd Half 2000	1 st Half 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
Southeast	383.1	378.2	363.3	-14.9	-3.9	-19.8	-5.2
Alabama	37.8	37.7	36.0	-1.7	-4.5	-1.8	-4.8
Florida	3.7	3.7	3.4	-0.3	-8.1	-0.3	-8.1
Georgia	102.1	102.4	98.9	-3.5	-3.4	-3.2	-3.1
Kentucky	4.2	4.3	4.1	-0.2	-4.7	-0.1	-2.4
Mississippi	4.4	4.2	4.3	0.1	2.4	-0.1	-2.3
North Carolina	145.9	141.7	135.4	-6.3	-4.4	-10.5	-7.2
South Carolina	69.3	68.6	66.4	-2.2	-3.2	-2.9	-4.2
Tennessee	15.7	15.6	14.8	-0.8	-5.1	-0.9	-5.7

Table 4. Nonfarm employment in the Southeast by major industry division, seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Industry	Employment			1st Qtr. 2001 - 2nd Qtr. 2001		2nd Qtr. 2000 - 2nd Qtr. 2001	
	2nd Qtr. 2000	1 st Qtr. 2001	2nd Qtr. 2001	Net change	Pct. change	Net change	Pct. change
Southeast							
Total	24496.0	24808.9	24857.1	48.2	0.2	361.1	1.5
Construction	1313.8	1352.3	1344.7	-7.6	-0.6	30.9	2.4
Manufacturing	3640.9	3559.0	3516.1	-42.9	-1.2	-124.8	-3.4
Transportation and public utilities	1339.7	1360.3	1361.7	1.4	0.1	22.0	1.6
Trade	5850.5	5925.0	5952.6	27.6	0.5	102.1	1.7
Wholesale trade	1304.5	1318.8	1326.6	7.8	0.6	22.1	1.7
Retail trade	4546.0	4606.2	4626.1	19.9	0.4	80.1	1.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	1260.8	1268.1	1274.2	6.1	0.5	13.4	1.1
Services	7184.5	7411.3	7465.3	54.0	0.7	280.8	3.9
Government	3849.6	3876.2	3885.4	9.2	0.2	35.8	0.9